

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please amend the specification on page 5, lines 11-15 as follows:*

One possible material for the breathable regions is an activated perfluorinated polymer material having extreme hydrophilic properties. An example of this polymer material is marketed under the trade name NAFION® by DuPont Fluoro products of Fayetteville USA. This material is useful due to its extreme hydrophilic properties and due to its ability to be extruded, particularly to be co-extruded in combination with other plastic materials.

*Please amend the specification on page 5, lines 19-21 as follows:*

The preferred material is a hydrophilic polyester block copolymer formed into a homogeneous flat film. An example of such a film is sold under the brand SYMPATEX®. This material is particularly suited to thin film productions.

*Please amend the specification on page 8, lines 7-14 as follows:*

Referring to Figures 9a - 9i it has been found that one of the difficulties with using a breathable membrane such as a SYMPATEX® membrane is its low elastic yield strength. Accordingly under longitudinal force the SYMPATEX® membrane may be easily stretched non-elastically leading to loss of aesthetic appearance and a constriction in the tube diameter. The multiple walled embodiment described with reference to Figure 6 goes some way toward overcoming this difficulty, providing as it does a second layer of breathable material. Furthermore in the perforated form the outer plastic membrane may be formed from a plastic material having a greater elastic yield strength than the preferred SYMPATEX® membrane.

*Please amend the specification on page 12, lines 5-15 as follows:*

All of the above described configurations are considered to provide additional longitudinal reinforcement, with each having advantages and disadvantages, some of which have been specified. In forming these constructions bonding is required between some or all of the various layers, for example between the breathable membrane and one or other bead, the bead and the mesh, the mesh and breathable membrane. Accordingly, it is preferred that appropriately compatible materials are used for each element of the construction. For example while a molten polyester bead may mechanically bond adequately with nylon or polypropylene mesh a brittleness may develop and/or this impeded the simultaneous bonding of the bead with an adjacent layer of polyester based breathable membrane, for example in the embodiment of Figure 9a. Consequently it is preferred that all three elements have the same base polymer, and for example, for a SYMPATEX® membrane which is polyester based product, a polyester bead and a mesh are preferred.